

Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Patricia Olivier, I live in New Britain, I'm an immigrant mother, and a member of *UACT - Manos Unidas de New Britain*. I'm in favor of **HB6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status**.

I was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes 17 years ago. It has been damaging many of my tendons. Because of this I have also lost my job because I have lost mobility in my fingers. I have been getting a lot of cramps everywhere in my body, both in my feet, stomach and back. Sometimes my legs feel like they are burning inside; it is a very strong burning feeling. My eyes have also been damaged; I have been diagnosed with glaucoma. I need glasses, I need to go to the specialist, I need medication. Even insulin is very hard to get and very expensive. I have had to seek financial help from some associations to be able to pay for my glasses, and this has also damaged me psychologically. And now with COVID I have a lot of depression, my blood sugar has accelerated even more, and going to a specialist is too expensive.

So now I ask and beg you to have consideration and a little humanity with us immigrants. **We ask that you support HB6616** because it is an important step towards what we really need: to give HUSKY to immigrants of all ages-children, youth, and adults. Then we will be able to work, because we are responsible and hardworking people. If we are healthy, we can help move our cities forward, and this country forward. Because it will be full of hard-working and honest people, there will be no more drug addiction or avoidable problems.

Thank you for your time,
Patricia Olivier
New Britain CT